Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 L-02 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9286

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 4511

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: AALC REPRESENTATIVE ORDERED TO LEAVE NIGERIA

- 1. AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER REPRESENTATIVE IN NIGERIA, JOHN GOULD, WHO IS DIRECTOR AALC-FUNDED TRADE UNION INSTITUTE, WAS NOTIFIED BY "REPATRIATION" LETTER DATED MAY 13 THAT HIS PRESENCE IN NIGERIA "IS NO LONGER REQUIRED". LETTER, SIGNED FOR BUT NOT BY CHIEF FEDERAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER, GIVES GOULD FOUR DAYS WITHIN WHICH TO PACK AND NOTES HIS VISITING PASS IS CURTAILED TO EXPIRE ON MAY 17 RATHER THAN MAY 25. LETTER GOES ON TO ADVISE GOULD "IN YOUR INTEREST" TO LEAVE COUNTRY ON OR BEFORE MAY 17 AS FAILURE TO DO SO WILL BE VIEWED "SERIOUSLY".
- 2. UNITED LABOR CONGRESS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 10 VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO GIVE ALL POSSIBLE AID AND ASSISTANCE TO OBTAINING A RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR GOULD. TUI DEPUTY DIRECTOR ESHIETT IS NOW ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN WHY IMMIGRATION DIVISION SUDDENLY REVERSED ITS PREVIOUS STAND ON THIS ISSUE, AND CURTAILED GOULD'S VISITING PASS. ACCORDING TO GOULD, PRELIMINARY FINDINGS INDICATED SENIOR OFFICERS IN MINISTRIES EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS ARE "SURPRISED" BY THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT. GENERAL CONSENSUS IS ULC GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI AND/OR PRESIDENT KALTUNGO BEHIND MOVE TO CURTAIL VISITING PASS SO AS TO LIMIT ABILITY PRO-GOULD GROUP TO OBTAIN RESIDENCE PERMIT.
- 3. AALC'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR JERRY FUNK PRESENTLY IN LAGOS AND IS CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLY AWARE OF SITUATION. HE NOTES AALC IS PREPARED CEASE ALL

ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA IF GOULD IS REQUIRED TO DEPART, AS HE IS NOW PREPARING TO DO ON MAY 17. OTHER AALC REPRESENTATIVES, DICK ARNOLD, PREPARED REMAIN IN LAGOS ON 60 DAY VISITOR VISA TO CLOSE OUT TUI AFFAIRS.

- 4. COMMENT: GOULD HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN PAWN IN INTERNAL ULC POWER STRUGGLE IN WHICH ODEYEMI/KALTUNGO FACTION, A MINORITY, HAS BEEN SEEKING UNFETTERED CONTROL OVER TUI, ESPECIALLY FUNDS. INTRA-UNION FIGHT ON THIS ISSUE HAS SURFACED EACH TIME GOULD'S RESIDENCE PERMIT HAS COME DUE FOR RENEWAL, AND WAS AGAIN IN EVIDENCE THIS YEAR BEHIND SCENES OF "UNANIMOUS" ULC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE.
- 5. AS PREVIOUSLY HPTOTHESIZED (LAGOS 1685), FMG EFFORTS TO RESTRICT LABATT ACTIVITIES MAY ALSO BE INSPIRED IN LARGE MEASURE BY SPILLOVER OF THIS SAME ULC INTERNAL INTRIGUE. SUPPORT BY LABATT FOR GOULD'S EFFORTS RUN EFFECTIVE TUI, WITH WELL-DEFINED FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND EDUCATIONAL GOALS, HAS DOUBTLESS DISPLEASED FACTION SEEKING TO USE TUI FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. IN ADDITION, ODEYEMI/KALTUNGO GROUP, WHO ARE PRINCIPAL HOLDOUTS AGAINST LABOR MERGER, HAVE PRIVATELY ACCUSED BOTH GOULD AND LABATT OF SUPPORTING LABOR UNIFICATION. CHARGE HAS LITTLE RELEVANCE TO INTERNAL TUI PROBLEMS, BUT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN USEFUL IN ELICITING FMG SUPPORT AGAINST GOULD AND LABATT FOR MEDDLING IN NATION'S (I.E. ULC'S) INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
- 6. UNLESS PRO-GOULD FACTION IS ABLE TO EFFECT DRAMATIC LAST-MINUTE REVERSAL OF EXPULSION ORDER, AALC PROGRAM IN NIGERIA WILL PRESUMABLY COME TO ABRUPT HALT. EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS AALC DECISION CEASE OPERATIONS HERE IF GOULD IS FORCED TO DEPART, AND CAN ONLY HOPE THAT ULC (OR NLC IF IT IS EVER FORMED) WILL SUBSEQUENTLY RECOGNIZE THAT TUI VIABILITY DEPENDS ON AALC SUPPORT AND INVITE LATTER BACK UNDER MORE CONGENIAL CONDITIONS.
- 7. ACTION REQUESTED: PASS GIST OF PARA'S 1 THRU 3 TO AALC HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. CROSBY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE. CONFIDENTIAL

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To: STATE

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